Foreign travel scheme

2232. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under Foreign travel scheme both currency and travellers cheques are made available to a traveller going abroad;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this creates confusion in the payment of Air fare and later cancellation of Air Tickets; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to amend the system and provide entire foreign exchange in currency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Eagle mission to Sri Lanka

2233. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the reasons which led to Indian Government to launch Air Force Eagle Mission o Sri Lanka;

(b) what is the total number of planes involved in the mission, category-wise; and

(c) what was the total cost of the mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Keeping in view the urgent and compelling humanitarian needs of the people of Jaffna peninsula, India decided to air drop essential supplies on June 4. Earlier, a convey of boats sent by India carrying essential supplies had been turned back by the Sri Lankan navy.

(b) and (c) Transport aircraft for supply, dropping and fighter aircraft to provide Air Defence cover were utilised in this Mission. The total cost of the Mission is still to be assessed.

Uranium smuggling from Jaduguda mines

2234. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to various press reports about uranium theft and its smuggling out of India; if so, what are the details in this regard and the total value of uranium involved;

(b) what steps have been taken to stop smuggling of uranium from Jaduguda mines in Bihar where some cases have been reported during the last three years giving details of these cases and the outcome thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken against the persons involved and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the various Press Reports about Uranium theft and its smuggling out of India Periodical samples of seixed material have been sent by the Investigating Agencies to this Department for analysis and on tsting it has been found that none of the samples contained uranium.